

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 10-18 and 20-25 are pending in the application. In the final Office Action, claims 11-13, 15-17 and 22-25 were allowed, claim 14 was objected to, and claims 10, 18, 20 and 21 were rejected.

Claims 14 and 18 have been amended herein to place these claims in form for allowance. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claims 10, 20 and 21 have been canceled herein without prejudice. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for his allowance of claims 11-13, 15-17 and 22-25 and for indication of allowable subject matter within Claim 14. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 14.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated the claim being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicants have canceled Claim 21 without prejudice. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Brodt (U.S. Patent No. 2,026,961).

Claims 10 and 20 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adiletta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,324,584).

Claims 10, 18, 20 and 21 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Musker (EP 0 043 700).

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 10, 20 and 21 without prejudice and have amended claim 18 to depend on base claim 14, which has also been amended to render it allowable. Accordingly, these rejections are now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Brodt in view of Ruttenberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,360,984) and over Adiletta et al. in view of Ruttenberg.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 18 to now depend on claim 14, which has also been amended to render it allowable. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

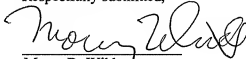
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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